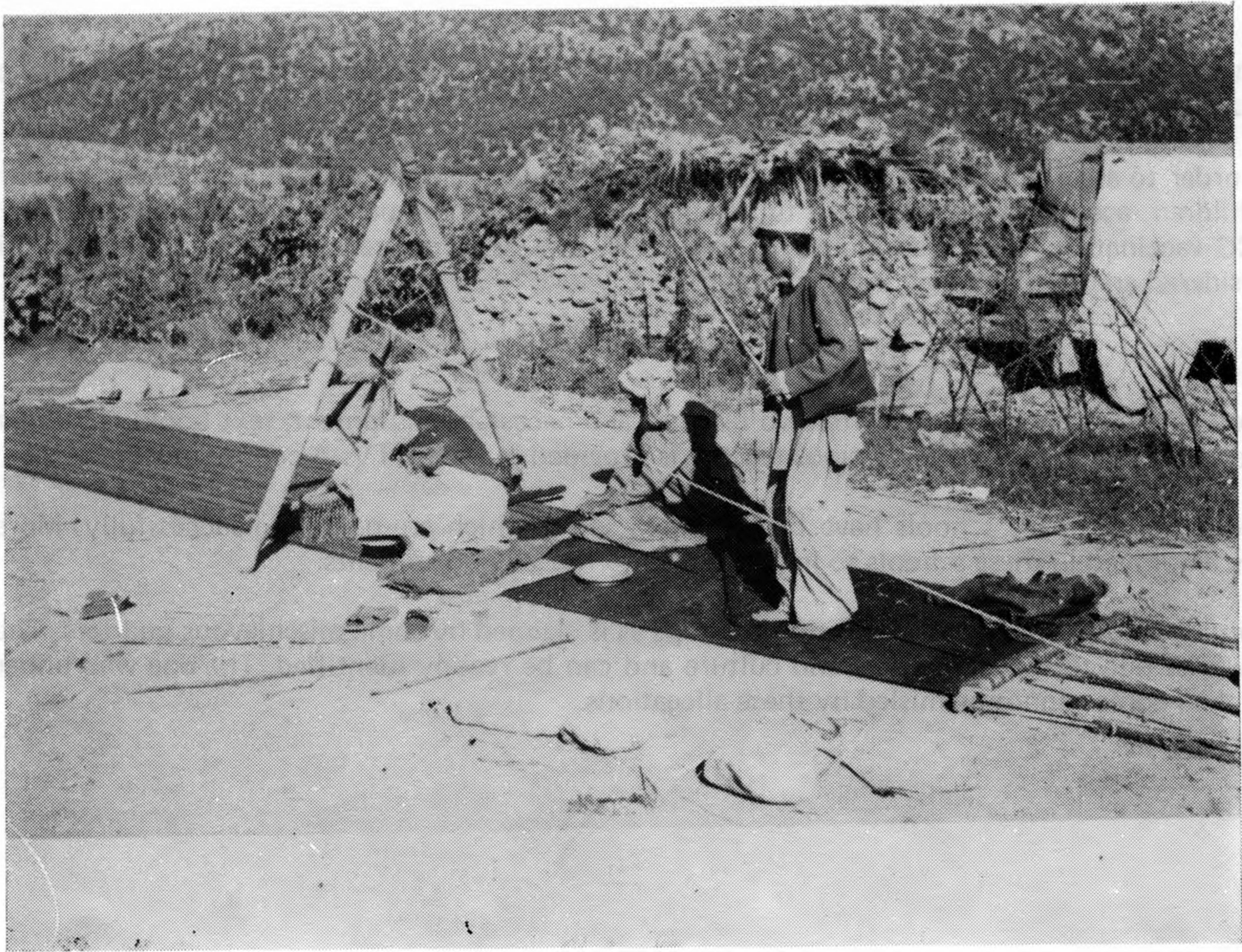
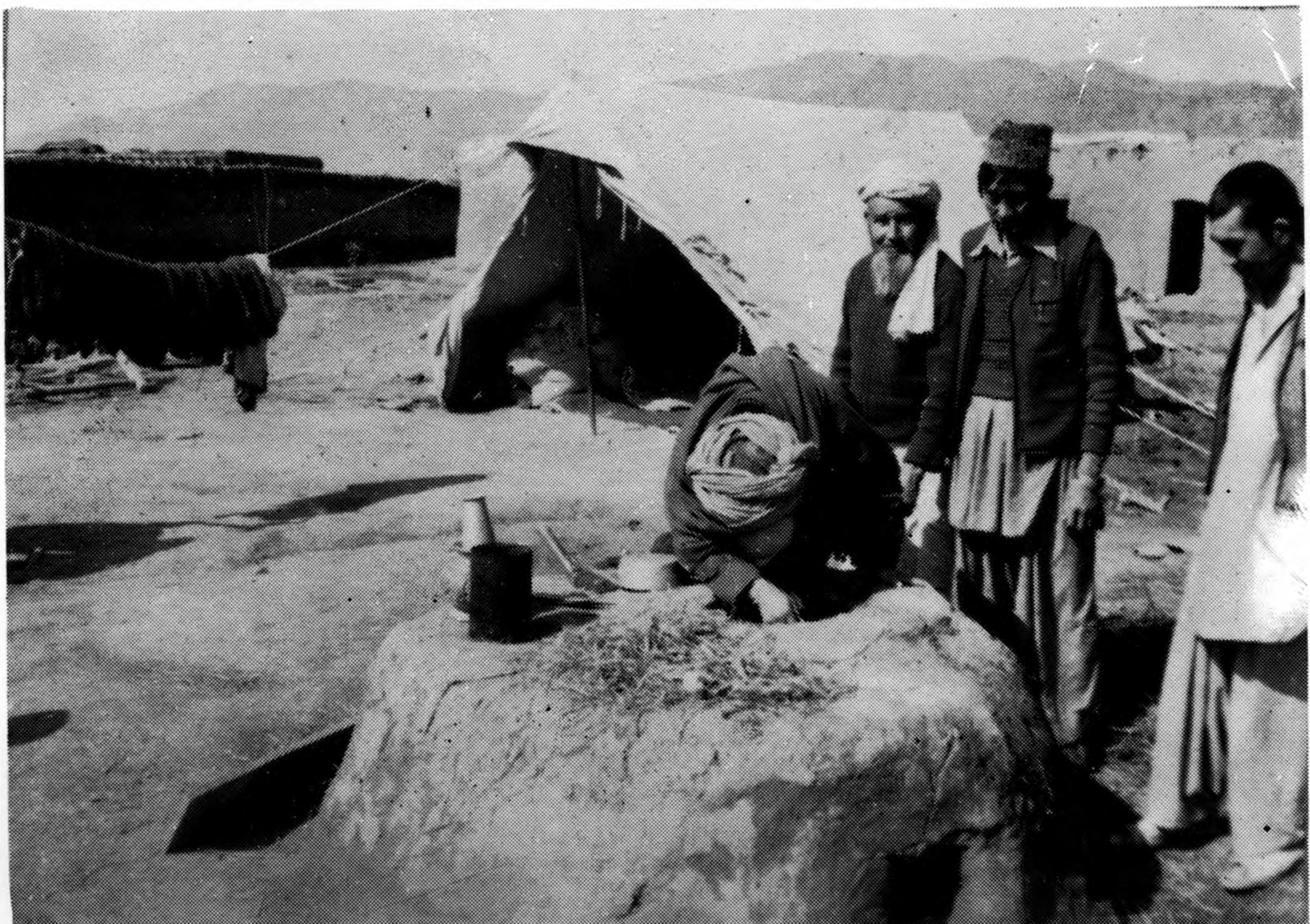


EARNING THEIR LIVING – REFUGEES MAKING CARPETS



THE COMMUNITY OVEN

ALL MUSLIMS ARE BROTHERS



REFUGEES IN BALUCHISTAN

by

Asif Durrani.

Afghanistan has always remained a fiercely independent country since its inception. Whenever foreign invaders tried to interfere and undermine its independence, they have suffered "face-saving" defeats. The Britishers attempted to subjugate Afghanistan thrice in the early 19th century but every time they had to pull back in the face of determined resistance. And having failed to tame the Afghan spirit, but fearing the Russian bear growling from across the banks of Ammu river the Britishers at last conceded to let Afghanistan become a buffer between its sea power and Soviet land power.

Passionately proud of their tribal traditions and intensely suspicious of foreigners and alien ideas, the Afghans kept both these powers off their borders for over two centuries by matching the sophisticated weapons of the Russians and Britishers with their indomitable will and free spirit. But, unmindful of history and maddened with power, the Soviets entered Afghanistan on the treacherous night of December 25, 1979. And since then, the Russians are fighting a losing battle. They are winning land but losing Afghans. The Afghan resistance has reduced the prestige of a world power to its lowest point. The most ardent friends of the Soviet Union find it difficult to defend Moscow's Afghan adventure. And today, the developing world has stopped looking towards the Kremlin for leadership as they did in the early fifties and sixties. This then, is a great victory for the Afghan People.

The preponderantly Islamic character of the Afghan people refused to accept an alien philosophy which Noor Mohammad Taraki wanted to impose on them through a palace coup. Many died, a lot many more were put behind bars. But the Afghans won when Taraki was killed by people of his own ilk. Then his successor, Haifzullah Amin too, met with the same fate when Babrak Karmel perched atop the Soviet tanks entered Kabul. This was the second victory of the Afghan people.

And since December 27, 1979, the Russian invaders have done everything short of removing Babrak Karmel, to win over the Afghans and put a stop to a losing war but to no avail. Out of pique they have adopted the "scorched earth" policy and bombarded innumerable Afghan villages suspected of harbouring Mujahideens. The Russian tanks have mowed to the ground, peaceful towns in order to "teach a lesson" to those who do not respond to their command.

ALL MUSLIMS ARE BROTHERS

Since December 1979, the Afghans have stepped up their resistance. And in order to enhance their striking power, they have sent old men, women and children across the border to Pakistan.

In Baluchistan, from April 1978 to March 1980, the total influx of Afghan refugees was restricted to 100,689, but after that the inflow jumped and by March 1982, the refugees strength in Baluchistan was more than525,000. The influx of refugees is still continuing and according to official statistics, by the end of the current year the total population of refugees in the province may touch the 600,000 mark.

Refugees have been kept in four districts of the province, viz., Chagai, Pishin, Zhob and Loralai. They are accommodated in 34 tentage villages. Their population in these four Districts is as follows:—

No.	District	Population
1.	Chagai	111,000
2.	Pishin	300,000
3.	Zhob	60,000
4.	Loralai	54,000
	Total:	525,000

District-wise division of Refugees.

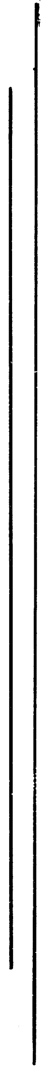
Chagai:

Amri	16,564
Pishook	14,142
Chagai	24,542
Girdi Jungle	15,911
Gillacha	11,604
Okar	28,240

Quetta & Pishin Districts:

Mohammad Kheil	29,223
Chaman	27,150
Bokhra I & II	26,513
Skan Kan	16,463
Dobandi	17,228
Toba Farkakhi	12,145

WITH COMPLIMENTS FROM



COL (RETD) MOHAMMAD ASLAM SHAH

MANAGING DIRECTOR

AL-SAIYED FOREIGN EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

65-A, KASHMIR ROAD, RAWALPINDI CANTT. PHONE : 68973

WITH THE BEST COMLIMENTS

FROM



SYED NAZAR HASSAN SHAH

PRESIDENT

FAISALABAD CHAMBER

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

FAISALABAD

Sakina and the three-year-old Aurangzeb were running high temperatures and both of them were in a coma. They had not eaten anything since morning and it was well past midnight. The need to reach some place where they could get something to revive the children and relieve their fever urged on the two . . . . the old man and the young woman. On and on they went, oblivious of where they were going.

In this way they have been moving for the last three years. Old men and children, women of all ages, very rarely able-bodied young men, in twos and threes, in groups of tens and fifties. Hungry, diseased, exhausted and dying. In this way they have been stumbling across the border. Uprooted from their homes and hearths, hounded by Babrak's forces, devastated out of their peaceful villages by the bombardment of gunship helicopters. Sometimes Babrak's conscripters, on reaching the village and finding not a single able-bodied man available for recruitment, have destroyed everything in sight out of pique and the survivors having nowhere to go to, have joined the exodus.

Jehanzeb's family did not want to leave their home. Despite the poverty and deprivation that was life in the village, they loved their land. They were happy and contented. But even this happiness and contentment were snatched away by the rumblings of tanks and rattlings of gunship helicopters which came from an alien land in the vanguard of an alien philosophy of life which appeared heretical to simple God-loving Muslims of Afghanistan.

The serene peace of the mountains was replaced by a harsh and scorching tension punctuated with death and destruction. Fatima, wife of Jehanzeb and his father Maulajan, in their stupor found the memory of the last night in the village coming back to them again and again.

Early in the afternoon word had reached them that Babrak's forces have traced Jehanzeb to the village and would be arriving there anytime to make a house-to-house search. The village elders had told them to pack up and flee as did many families before them. It was the only way to let the menfolk continue their armed struggle against the alien forces and the stooge army. Hurriedly, the family gathered whatever they could carry, including some food and water and set out on their long and unwilling journey out of their motherland.

The three million Afghanis who have taken refuge in Pakistan are mostly people who have left their country very reluctantly and that too, only when they thought they would be a burden on those who are making a gallant effort to liberate their country from a mighty power. They are well-protected and fairly well provided for in the Refugee Tentage Villages numbering about 250 in the NWFP. But when you visit a RTV (Refugee Tentage Village) you will find those not engaged in any physical activity staring across at the mountains from where they came with naked hankering in their eyes which tell you where their heart is.

The trickle of refugees which started soon after the elimination of Sardar Daud in April 1978, reached 18,329 by the end of that year. By the time Nur Mohammad Taraki was removed in September 1979, the refugee population in Pakistan had swelled to over a lakh of persons. And during the three months rule of Hafeezullah Amin, some three lakh more Afghans had crossed over to Pakistan.

The real exodus, however, began with the fall of Amin and rise of Babrak, hoisted actually by the Soviet forces which entered Afghanistan without any justifiable reason and against all norms of international law.

Beginning with over ten thousand a month from early 1980, the flow of refugees reached to about ninety thousand a month in the later half of the year and by March 1981, total number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan had gone up to two million. And by December 1981, NWFP alone had about 21 lakh refugees including about five lakh males, six lakh females and about 10 lakh children.

The latest statistics place the Afghan refugee population in Pakistan at about three million which is over 25 per cent of the total refugee population of 10 million spread all over the world and which are looked after by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. And this figure is more than the total number of refugees the UNHCR had to look after about tne years back in some forty countries put together.

Qila Abdullah	16,259
Pishin	7,781
Pir Alizai	31,165
Surkhab I, II, III & IV	87,939
Gulistan	17,923
Innjini	16,963
Saranan	6,650
Loralai & Zhob districts:	
Ghazai	34,650
Zar Karez I & II	32,124
Malgai	47,949

Problems to Refugees.

It is quite difficult to provide all facilities to the refugees so that they could feel at home. Baluchistan is already short of drinking water and water for cultivation is scarce. The people of this province have been facing this problem for a long time. Though numerous tube wells are installed every year, these are still not sufficient in view of the growing population. And now when more than half a million refugees have entered the province, the problem of water has increased manifold. So to provide better facilities to the refugees, it is necessary to solve this vital problem.

Health.

Most of the women and children in the area are suffering from malnutrition. Besides, there is a serious lack of adequate health facilities. Though provincial government and the local office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) extend all possible help to the Refugees, many still go without medical aid, particularly the Afghan women, who due to their tribal customs, do not approach to the male doctors. The UNHCR has established twenty basic health units and ten mobile units almost covering all the tentage villages. This is still insufficient for the growing Refugee population. Each basic health unit is manned by one doctor, one Lady Health Visitor, one compounder, one midwife and one nursing orderly but without female doctors.

Future of Afghan Children.

Living in the tentage villages, the Afghan children are growing without adequate educational facilities. The authorities have set up some primary schools and vocational training centres in the tentage villages. But their number is still insufficient and qualified staff is not available.



JEHANZEB WITH OTHER MUJAHIDEEN

PRODUCT OF CONFLICT AND PERSECUTION

by

Naveed Miraj

Refugees are the product of conflict and persecution. A refugee is defined as a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, unwilling to avail himself of the protection of the country.

The essential problem of the refugees, and the necessary solution of them, have been the same throughout the history and across the world. Refugees need to be fed, clothed and sheltered. They need to find new homes if they cannot return to their old ones they want to go back home if they can, and often need help to do so. Pakistan has also accommodated about 3 million (upto June 1982) Afghan refugees. The Federal Government of Pakistan established a special organization to deal with Afghan refugees.

Pakistan has granted asylum to Afghan nationals fleeing their country in the wake of political repression and occupation by foreign troops. The asylum has been granted entirely on humanitarian grounds and for reasons of cultural, ethnical and religious affinity.

This action has been taken strictly in accordance with the universally accepted principles and practices, the 1951 UN Convention relating to Refugees, supplemented by the Protocol of 1967 as well as the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

The Provincial Governments of NWFP and Baluchistan, where most of the refugees are lodged, have been authorised to exercise administrative control over the Afghan Refugees in conformity with the policies laid down and directives issued by the Federal Government. The local administration of Northern Area is, likewise, responsible for the administration of the small refugee population in Northern Areas



TENTAGE CLASS ROOMS



The Federal Government exercise control over the refugees through the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees at the States & Frontier Regions Division. The broad policies at the Federal Government are formulated by the Federal Committee on the Refugees headed by Secretary, States & Frontier Regions Division with members from the relevant ministries, departments of the Federal Government as well as some UN Agencies.

At Provincial level the Chief Secretaries have been declared as Heads of Department in respect of maintenance of Afghan Refugee Camps.

Categories of Relief Assistance by Source:

Relief assistance comes from the following sources:—

a. **Government.** Assistance provided from the budget of the Federal Government.

b. **UN Agencies.** Assistance received from any of the UN Agencies such as UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, FAO, etc. (In Pakistan the UNHCR is the lead agency).

Self Reliance Schemes:

Schemes or projects designed to enable refugees to generate private income so that in case of stoppage of relief assistance, they can rely on such income.

Shelter:

Includes tents, temporary mud huts and any other temporary dwelling provided to the refugees.

Refugee Tentage Village (RTV):

Denotes a refugee camp housing upto 5000 refugees under one Administrator.

Upto five RTV's are grouped under an *Area.* Two or more Areas form part of District/Agency Administrators.

The executive authority for day to day affairs has been vested in the Provincial Refugee Commissioners appointed by the Provincial Governments in their respective Home Departments.

Afghan nationals registering themselves as Refugees in the provinces of NWFP, Baluchistan & Northern Areas *only* are entitled to relief assistance. Any Afghan nationals spilling over to the provinces of Punjab, Sind and Azad Kashmir, are not entitled to such assistance but may be allowed to purchase rationed commodities against cash payment.

According to the policy, the Refugees registered in the provinces of NWFP & Baluchistan have to live in the areas specified for the purpose by the Provincial Governments and must conform to the code of conduct and other rules promulgated by them.

The government has directed the Refugees Administration that as far as possible all refugees must be lodged in camps, which for purposes of their security, should not be in close proximity of the border but should be at a reasonable distance so as to be safe/free from any possible attack by the Afghan Security Forces. The movement of refugees outside their camps should be controlled without in any way giving the inmates any impression of being held as prisoners. Provincial Governments are required to provide necessary security to Refugee Camps.



A VIEW OF REFUGEES CAMPS IN BALUCHISTAN



FATHER KILLED IN ACTION. MOTHER FELLED BY GUNSHIP HELICOPTER

WITH COMPLIMENTS

OF



PUNJAB AGRICULTURE SUPLY CORPORATION
LAHORE

WE ARE WITH OUR AFGHAN BROTHERS

NI

THEIR JUST STRUGGLE

WITH COMPLIMENTS

OF

FAISALABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

MOHAMMAD RAIZ SHAHID

MAYOR

Instructions for security check of Refugees are issued by Home Departments of respective provinces within the general policy outlined by the Federal Government from time to time.

The following steps have been taken to control the activities of refugees:—

They should be encouraged to stay united in their tribal/sub-tribal groups. Rival factions/tribes may be kept at different places.

Provincial Governments may impose any reasonable restriction on movement of refugees in tribal areas/settled districts as demanded by dictates of security.

Afghan Refugees in general and their leaders in particular are not allowed to hold any press conferences, issued statements or meet national or foreign journalists without permission.

For ease of administration, the refugee organization is divided into various tiers. At the lowest level is the Refugee Tentage Village (RTV), the basic unit comprising a maximum of 5000 refugees, or approximately 1000 families. An RTV is placed under an RTV Administrator who is responsible in all respects, for the administration, welfare, discipline, etc. of refugees in the RTV.

The next tier of administration is the Area under an Area Administrator. The Area comprises upto 5 RTVs or 25,000 population.

Above the Area, at the District/Agency level, there is District/Agency Administrator under the overall control of the Deputy Commissioner/Political Agent of the District/Agency.

At the highest tier at the Provincial HQ, there is the Provincial Refugee Commissioner who works under the Home Department.

Finally, at the Federal Government level, there is the Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees under the administrative control of Secretary, States & Frontier Regions Division, Government of Pakistan.

In view of the prolonged scope of relief operations, a high level body at the Federal Government level known as "Federal Committee for Relief of Afghan Refugees" has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, States & Frontier Regions Division to guide and advise the Agencies concerned with relief operations and coordinate the procurement and disbursement of the relief goods as well as to assess the requirements of refugees for transmission to UNHCR and other aid-giving Agencies.

Likewise, to enable the Provincial Governments to carry out the responsibilities assigned to them, and ensure proper implementation of the relief programmes as laid down in the Agreements, the Government of NWFP and Baluchistan have also set up high-powered Committees at Provincial level under the Chairmanship of the Provincial Chief Secretaries and the concerned Secretaries of various departments.

The above committees meet periodically to coordinate relief assistance work and to review progress of relief operations from time to time. Relevant UN Agencies and Private Voluntary Organizations are also invited to attend these meetings on an as required basis.

A significant source of relief assistance are the Private Voluntary Organizations both within and outside Pakistan. Acceptance of such assistance is based purely on humanitarian grounds and must be devoid of any political, social or religious strings or conditions.

International Voluntary Organizations are forbidden to approach the Provincial Governments directly with offers of aid. All such requests are to be made to the Federal Government (States & Frontier Regions Division) who would process such offers in the normal manner. Likewise, Provincial Governments must also



THE OLD REFUGEE WITH HIS GRANDSON IN A CAMP
SOMEWHERE IN BALUCHISTAN



direct the PVOs to the Federal Government for acceptance or otherwise of relief assistance.

It is the policy of the Government not to accept any expatriates to work in the Refugee Tentage Villages except for essential administrative staff for coordination and overall control.

The operation of PVOs is to be restricted to non-sensitive/settled areas of both the provinces and subject to any other conditions that the Federal Government may consider expedient to impose on such PVOs.

Direct distribution of relief goods by representatives of PVOs to Afghan Refugees is forbidden. All such relief goods must be channelled through recognized Government Agencies. However, donors may be present at the time of distribution if they so desire.

Supervision/monitoring of relief work by the expatriate donors in the sensitive areas of NWFP and Baluchistan may be undertaken only with permission of the Government.

Other factors affecting acceptance of offers from PVOs are:—

a. They may operate only in the areas and to the extent agreed to by the Federal Government.

b. Overall coordination amongst different PVOs is the responsibility of the Federal Government.

c. Field visits of expatriates are to be undertaken strictly in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed to mutually between the Government/PVOs.

d. Recruitment of Pakistani staff for field work is to be done through the Federal/Provincial Governments, as applicable.

e. Procurement of relief goods available within the country must be done through local trade/industry.

Some of the observations of Commissioner, Afghan Refugees in NWFP:

" There are about 350 points on Pak-Afghan border from which the refugees enter Pakistan."

" About one lakh babies were born in the refugee camps during the past two years."

" About 500 members of Refugee establishment staff have been fired on charges of corruption. Two were convicted by military courts and imposed a fine of one lakh rupees and sentenced to imprisonment for six months . . prompt action and exemplary punishment is given to keep the establishment clean and win the confidence of the donors in the working of the Refugee establishment."

" Widows of mujahideens killed in action are encouraged to marry so that more children are born to take up arms against the invaders."

" You will not find a single refugee with a begging bowl."

WITH THE BEST COMLIMENTS

FROM



INTERNATIONAL HOUSING SOCIETY

THE MALL RAWALPINDI

WITH THE BEST COMLIMENTS

FROM



MIAN PERVEZ ASLAM

PRESIDENT

RAWALPINDI CHAMBER

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

RAWALPINDI

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These refugees have come from almost the entire length and breadth of Afghanistan, from places nearer to Pak-Afghan borders to the places in close proximity to Afghan-Soviet borders. They come from almost all the tribal groupings of Afghanistan. These tribal groupings include such names as Nooristani, Kohistani, Mishwani, Safi, Mamund, Mohmand, Khugiani, Shinwari, Uzbek, Tajiks, Turkaman, Kharoti, Chilgai (Ahmedzai, Suleman Khel, Andar, Nasir, Taraki, Moosa Khel, Tota Khel, Isa Khel, Sulemanzai), Tanni, Mangal, Wardak, Chakmani, Zardan, Khoswal, Sabri, Parsoban, Qandari (Achakzai, Noorzai, Barakzai, Popalzai, Baluch, Gurbaz, Ahmedzai), Wazir, Hazara and Mahsood.

The border between Afghanistan and Pakistan . . . . the Durand Line . . . . is about fifteen hundred miles long, from Broghal in the North to Chaghi in the South. The Durand Line, drawn in 1885, is so demarcated, that it is physically impossible to plug the passes and passages or to restrict the movement of the two population across the border. Traditional immigration restrictions are observed only at two points where formalities such as passports are required to be met.

The sheer impossibility of the task was effectively voiced by the Governor of NWFP, Lt. Gen. Fazle Haq, in one of his meetings with the former Soviet Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Sarwar Azimov. Recalling this particular meeting with the Ambassador, the Governor told an interviewer that on being asked by Mr. Azimov to stop the refugees from coming in, he replied: "We will have to station our entire army and the rangers on the borders to close it and still it will not yield the desired results. And we will be confronted with the wrath of our own people who would not like us to close the doors on their brethren in distress . . . . You are a super power, you close down the Afghan border and stop the Refugees from crossing over to Pakistan. If being a world power, you cannot stop them, how can you expect a small country like Pakistan to do so?"

Indeed, Durand Line has always served as a soft line. Various tribes, sub-tribes, ethnic groups and families reside on both sides of the Line and move across it freely, round the year, without travel facilities. Also, the people of the two countries are closely linked by a common heritage of religion, history and culture, have ethnic and linguistic affinity and there exists geographical contiguity between the two countries as well.

So, when in the wake of unending political repression and military action, the people of Afghanistan started fleeing their country, they naturally found themselves trudging towards Pakistan. And the people of Pakistan, guided by the same factors of commonality, instinctively accepted them with open arms and continue to do so without any reservations. Indeed, Pakistanis consider it their religious obligation to accommodate their brothers-in-distress from Afghanistan. The response is a genuine response and in keeping with the high tradition set by the Ansars of early Islamic era.

It was a spontaneous response. No cost was considered too high and no sacrifice too demanding for making the stay of refugees in Pakistan as comfortable as possible. Pakistan has offered the refugees food, shelter and a respectable mode of living on temporary basis with the hope that sooner or later their honourable return to their homeland will become possible.

When a refugee arrives in Pakistan, basic information about himself, his family, tribe and village are obtained from him. On the basis of this information, his relatives, near and dear ones and friends are located and he is sent to the camp where these people live. Here, further confirmation of his statement is also sought and he is allowed to opt for any one of the eight or nine refugee groupings. After these formalities are over, the refugee is sent to the area and camps where registration is on. Some refugee camps like in the Bajur Agency (where the refugee population has surpassed the local population) have been closed to new arrivals. Different areas of the provinces are opened, turn by turn, to the new influx.

There is no ban or restriction on the refugees to remain at one particular place. However, they are entitled to relief assistance of cash and kind only when they register themselves and reside at places offered to them.

Earlier, that is till January 1979, the relief assistance was mainly cash subsidy of Rs. 120/- per head per



REFUGEES IN MUD HOUSES



month besides provision of tents for shelter. This was reduced to Rs. 50/— per head per month in the beginning of 1980 when the UNHCR and some private voluntary organizations also joined in the operations. Now in addition to cash allowance, the refugees are being provided with basic necessities. This includes tents, tarpaulin, construction material, one blanket or one quilt per individual (more than one blanket/quilt are given in colder areas),wheat, eadible oil, dried skimmed milk and sugar and tea, unstiched cloth, used clothing and footwear and minimum essential items of hard crockery,utensils and cooking stores per family. This is given by way of direct assistance. Indirect assistance includes medicare, animal husbandry, water supply, education, provision of godowns, fuel, stove and containers.

The Small Industrial Development Board has opened a number of carpet-weaving centres where young refugee boys are given training. Each trainee receives a monthly stipend of Rs. 100/-. The average monthly financial outlay per refugee comes to about Rs. 150/- as cash maintenance allowance, Rs. 50/- for food commodities, and other direct/indirect services worth Rs. 50/-. This would mean a total expenditure of Rs. 3,600 million per month on two million refugees in NWFP alone during 1982. The share of Pakistan in this expenditure will be 50 per cent in cash. Upto December 31, 1981, friendly countries and voluntary agencies donated a number of items including tents (1, 62, 162), blankets (2, 40, 652), quilts (9,14,841), clothes (34,592 bales/ cartons), shoes (95,318 pairs), unstitched cloth (16,75,554 metres), Peshawari chappal (63,799 pairs), mixed cloth (3,476 bales/cartons), ladies shoes (60, 452 pairs), children's chappals (20,000 pairs) and ladies open chappals (1,532 pairs).

During the year 1981, food items received under the World Food Programme included wheat (29,95,61,156 kg), sugar (1,28,20,835 kg), edible oil (97,41,557 kg), dry skimmed milk (81,74,553 kg), tea (6,11,734 kg), and pulses (22,55,295 kg).

In the begining, the refugees were locked after by the local district administration but a point came when this arrangement proved too inadequate in the face of a sudden jump in the number of arrivals. Now the refugee affairs are being looked after by a Chief Commissioner at the Federal level and a Commissioner at the provincial level (in Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province). The representatives of UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF are also involved in the arrangement at effective levels. in NWFP, the Commissionerate of Afghan Refugees has employed a staff of over 8,000 to administer the relief operations at an annual cost of Rs. 10 crore.

The basic unit of refugee administration is the Refugee Tentage Village, having an average population of 5,000 (some 700 - 800 families). Each RTV is managed by an Administrator who distributes cash and food and is also responsible for health, education, self-help schemes, hygiene and sanitation of tentage villages. Every group of five RTVs is headed by an Area Administrator who looks after the food, relief, accounts and security sections.

The total number of RTVs and scattered population is at present 250 in the NWFP. Out of these, 90 per cent are properly manned and adequately staffed.

There are sixteen national and international voluntary agencies working in the NWFP alone in order to supplement the relief and health services. These include International Committee of Red Cross, Pakistan Red Crescent, Saudi Red Crescent, International Rescue Committee, Union Aid, Inter-Aid Committee, Save the Children Fund of UK, Austrian Relief Committee for Afghan Refugees, Pakistan Medicos International, Church Ward Service, League of Red Cross Societies, CARITAS Pakistan, Idara-e-Ahya-ul-Aloom, International Christian Aid, SERVE and Enfant de Monto.

More than 100 foreign leaders and International figures have visited the Tentage Villages. Prominent among them were Lord Carrington, British Foreign Minister, former US Secretary of State, Brezeniski, Australian Foreign Minister, Mr. Peacock, President of Indonesia, Soharto, King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, British Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, President Ervin of Trukey, the King of Nepal and Prime Minister of China.



THE INJURED AFGHANS IN HOSPITAL



Although friendly countries and certain national and international relief agencies have tried to share Pakistan's burden yet the major weight is still being borne by Pakistan. This is a continuous emergency as every morning, Pakistan receives a fresh cargo of human misery which throws out of gear even the most well-managed relief operations.

About seven lac tons of relief supplies are required to be moved from Provincial Headquarters to over 250 distribution points. About 300 load-carrying trucks are required to transport a minimum of 140 tons to each RTV every month.

Besides the economic burden, Pakistan is confronted with sociological problems too which spring from such a massive inflow of refugees in a poor country. Some border villages have started showing signs of demographic change. In one or two villages, the population of the refugees has surpassed that of the local population. But it is worth mentioning here that the relations between the locals and the refugees have been extremely satisfactory. The refugees are allowed to move about inside the country freely without any restrictions. They are not placed in camps fenced with barbed wire as is the experience of refugees in other countries. The refugees have never posed any law and order situation. Of course, the refugees are not allowed to carry arms without licences in settled areas.

Sometimes, when disputes arise among refugees (old enmity, differences over distribution of food and cash and other items, women affairs, etc.) the camp elders intervene and settle the issues amicably according to their tribal laws. Incidents between the locals and refugees (which, though very rare, usually arise over water and crops) are never allowed to get out of hand by the elders of the locals and the refugees.

The one most important sociological problem that the refugees face concerns the institution of marriage. Afghanis very rarely marry outside their own tribes. And since most of the young men have either joined the freedom fight or have died on the front, it has become a problem to find suitors for young girls of marriageable age. Now the camp elders have started advising the parents to ignore the traditions and to accept brides and bridegrooms from other tribes too.

Afghans are not allowed to purchase land or property inside Pakistan. A number of them, however, have succeeded in getting themselves self-employed. Most of them are in transport business as they have brought with them buses, trucks and jeeps. Most of the moneyed people who crossed the border have set up their own businesses or have gone to some other country. The professionals to have either got themselves fixed up in jobs in Pakistan or have migrated to some Western country. During the last two years over 15,000 Afghan doctors were given NOCs to go abroad. Hindu and Sikh Afghanis have gone to India.

There are some 5000 afghan refugees of turkish origin in the refugee camps. The government of Turky had offered to take these to their original country. The UNHCR has arranged the transporation of such refugees to turky. About 4300 refugees would be shifted to Turky during the month of august, said an official.

The most common ailments in the Refugee camps are TB, measles, scabies, snake bite and glucose deficiency. Family planning is not very popular among the refugee women but lately some centres have reported their interest in getting advice with regard to family planning. According to statistics, some one lakh babies were born in the camps during the last two years. Deaths are usually not reported.

HEALTH

There is one dispensary per RTV. All Government hospitals, both in tribal and settled areas are providing facilities to the refugees in addition to special mobile and stationary units. Thirty per cent of patients (both in- and outdoor) visiting these hospitals are Afghan refugees.

The Health Department of NWFP Government is also running 31 mobile and 78 stationary health units.



COURCE OF REGISTRATION IN N.W.F.P.



Nine voluntary organizations are running 31 mobile and 40 stationary dispensaries. Fifteen extended programme of Immunization units are also working in NWFP.

In order to ascertain the extent of incidence of tuberculosis among Afghan Refugees, a sample of Afghan Refugee children, aged 5 to 9 years, were tuberculin tested. Thirty six per cent (473) children wer found previously BCG vaccinated. In non-vaccinated group of 844, 218 (25.8 per cent) were found tuberculosis infected. This is considered an unusually high infection rate.

EDUCATION

There is one primary school with two teachers and necessary equipment, text books, stationary, etc. per RTV. Besides primary schools, one religious teacher is provided in each RTV. A central mosque is also provided.

About 300 primary schools have been opened so far which are operating successfully. More than 739 teachers are employed in these schools to impart education to 25,896 students.

There are no powindas in these refugee camps as is claimed by some mischievous quarters. The powindas are very distinct due to their costumes and culture and can be readily identified. The one who understands the region and the people cannot be misled by these allegations.

THE AFGHANISTAN ...



SHE HAS LOST
HER PARENTS, LOST
HER HOME, LOST
HER LAND, LOST
HER FUTURE, LOST
EVERY THING
TO THE
RUSSIAN INVADERS

Qaiser Butt

by

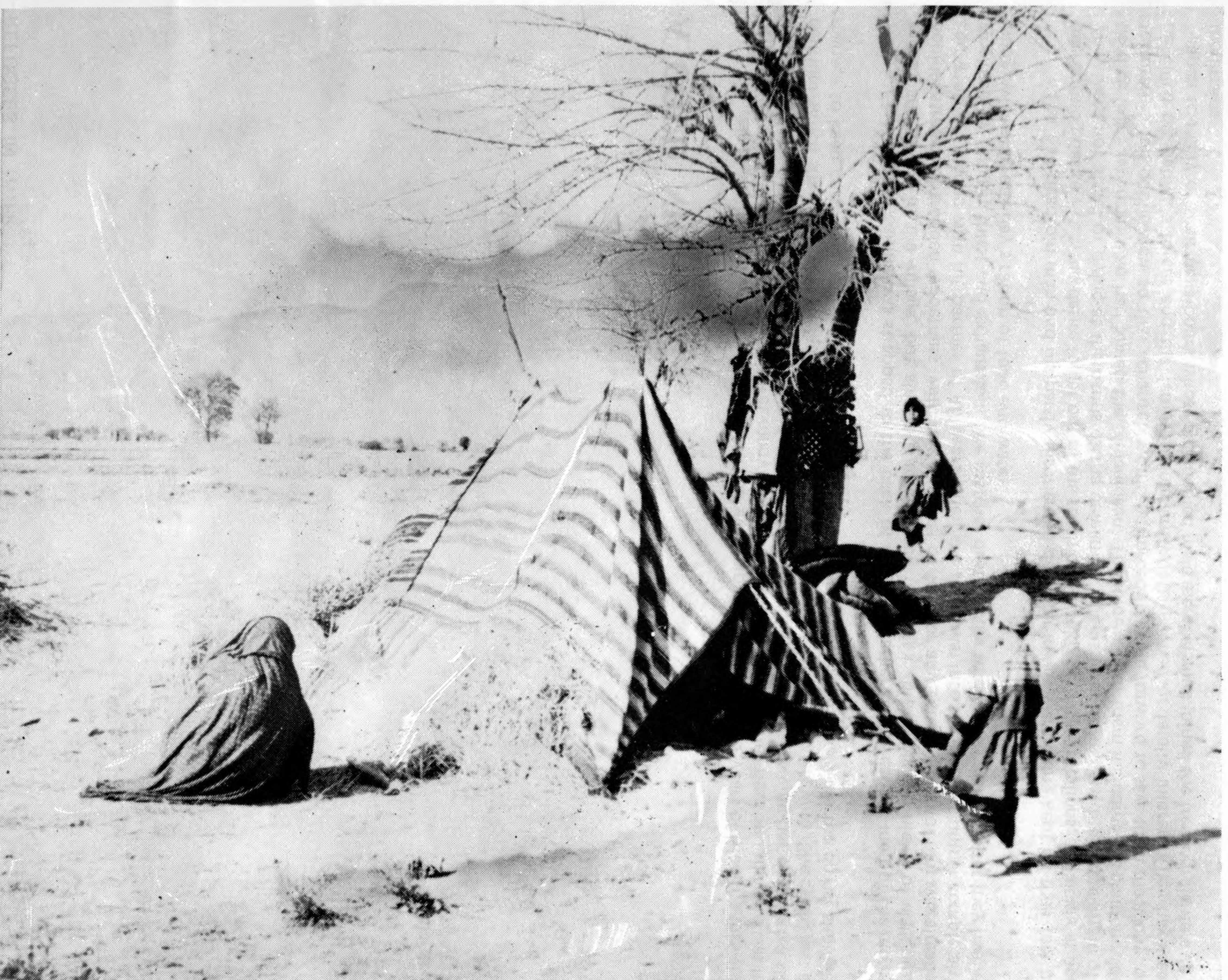
Qaiser Butt.

A COLD NIGHT

It was a very cold night. The coldest she had ever experienced in her 30 years of life. The thin chaddar which was covering a thinner dress, torn at many places had become a part of her flesh and the cold was hitting her bones with devastating severity. The bitter pangs of hunger and thirst were forcing her deep into a state of delirium which she was trying to fight off with whatever little strength she was left with. She could just barely manage to keep herself related to reality. And she was moving with her three-year-old son on her shoulder

Five-year-old Sakina was strapped to the back of her grandfather, a 60-year-old man of the mountains, rugged and strong in the village, but almost a total wreck now after three days and nights of walking in the boulder-strewn, untrodden wilderness, with not a morsel of food or any water. A part of him was already dead and gone . . . . gone with his partner of 40 years when she slid down into the eternal slumber completely overwhelmed by hunger, thirst and exhaustion. She met her death in the wilderness two days after they had left the village with only one day's ration of food and water.

The half-dead old man and his partly disoriented daughter-in-law were being kept on their feet by just one burning desire . . . . the desire to get out of the reach of Babrak's barbaric battalions, as quickly as possible. They were not afraid of dying at the hands of the demented villains in uniform. But they were afraid of being used to flush Jehanzeb who had joined the Mujahideen. They knew all of them including the children would be tortured in full public view so that Jehanzeb would be forced to come forward to save them the agony, only to be killed by Babrak's forces and the family permanently left maimed or fatally injured. They have seen this happen to many of their neighbours whose able-bodied male members had joined the freedom fighters up in the mountains.



A SELF - CONTAINED TRIBAL HOUSE IN A TENTAGE VILLAGE